

MIDWIFERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2004

DRAFT

Due to budgetary constraints, the Midwifery Advisory Committee has not met since February 10, 2004. Therefore, the minutes for February 4, 2004 were never approved. The Department realizes that corrections may be needed. However, we are sharing this "draft" as it is a record of the meeting that took place.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT:

Marijke van Roojen, LM
Leslie Gesner, LM
Jennifer Durrie, Public Member (arrived 10:45 am)
Jane Dimer, MD

MIDWIFERY PROGRAM
STAFF PRESENT:

Paula Meyer, Executive Director
Kendra Pitzler, Program Manager
Alice Blado, Assistant Attorney General

OTHER DOH STAFF:
PRESENT:

Michael Johnson,
Jeannette Zaichkin, RN Maternal & Child Health
Joyce Olsen, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kelly Meinig; Melissa Jonas, LM & MAWS;
Audrey Levin, Carolee Hall, student; G. Lee,
student; Debra O'Conner

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 am by acting chair, Marijke Van Roojen, LM. She announced that Jennifer Durrie would be arriving later. Morgan Martin was unable to attend.

Introduction of New Committee Member

Jane Dimer was introduced and asked to tell about her background. She is an obstetric physician who works at Group Health in Seattle and has multiple responsibilities. Dr. Dimer is a Washington native, trained at Northwestern in Chicago and was on the faculty there. She worked internationally, holding an academic and university practice in Germany. She worked closely with midwives and developed a new curriculum when in Europe. She works primarily in maternal and child care but also provides consultation for Group Health midwives.

1.1. Approval of Agenda

Chair Van Roojen changed the order of agenda items. After item number one, the Committee will discuss item five, they will then discuss items two and four and then discuss item three. The other items will follow in order. The chair indicated that members of the public could add information during discussion of agenda items. The agenda was approved as amended.

1.2 Approval of September 2, 2003 Minutes

On Page 10, the last paragraph was changed to read, "The Committee also discussed Standards of Practice, Scope of Practice and Standards of Care and wrote the comments on poster paper. This is incorporated as attachment two". They clarified that the page numbered "one" is a definition of terms, and number "two" was brainstorming. The attachments were renumbered making Attachment one, "Considering Board or Commission" and Attachment two, "Standards of Practice."

The typo error on page 7 was changed to "portion".

The minutes for September 3, 2003 were approved with the above changes.

1.3 Approval of January 20, 2004 minutes

The following changes were made:

On page 3 under the title "Discussion Regarding New Advisory Committee", under the sub-title "Discussion", the last sentence of the first paragraph was deleted. The second paragraph was changed to read, "The committee noted the intent of staggering committee end-dates for continuity of the committee. The committee also discussed obtaining the names of the applicants and providing

criteria for the Secretary of Health (Secretary) to consider when appointing new members.”

On page 6 under the title “Midwifery Budget”, the sixth bullet item was changed to read, “The committee asked for a cost-comparison between the Investigations Service Unit (ISU) and Health Services Section 6 investigations. Ms. Pitzler indicated that this is possible and will be provided.”

On page 7 under the title, “Open Forum for Public Input”, the third bullet item revised to read, “A statement was made that countries that are ranked ahead of the US utilize primarily midwives in the majority of maternity care.”

On page 7, the seventh bullet item was changed to read, “Questions were raised regarding the “precedent for defining a laundry list in law” and that a laundry list could lead to restraint of trade and lawsuits.”

On page 9, under the title “Standards of Practice – Action”, Paragraph two, sentence two was changed to state, “This letter will recommend that the December 6, 2002 document be referenced in rule.”

A motion to approve the minutes as modified was approved.

2. CR101 Update on Standards of Practice.

Ms Pitzler and Ms Meyer provided some background information regarding the development of this proposed rule. The process began in 2002 a legislative staffer suggested that the department go forward with adopting standards of practice into rules.

Chair vanRoojen read the document: “New Section WAC-246-834-265 Midwifery Practice Standards.” The committee suggested the following changes:

- (3) Practice in accordance with the Midwives’ Association of Washington State’s document, “Standards for the Practice of Midwifery”, adopted December 6, 2002. Licensed Midwives may obtain a copy of the practice standards which shall be maintained in the Department’s office.
- (4) Demonstrates currency in adult CPR and neonatal resuscitation training.

Ms. VanRoojen indicated the Standards of Practice raises the bar.

3. American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Documents Relating to Informed Choice/Refusal.

Committee members reviewed this document as informational at this time.

4. Draft Letter of Mary Selecky, Secretary of the Department of Health from the Midwifery Advisory Committee

Members of the public indicated that this is a very important letter. They shared their concerns and suggestions to strengthen the letter. They stated that most people do not understand the Midwives Association of Washington States' (MAWS) Standards for the Practice of Midwifery. They also indicated that if midwives were part of the investigation team, their expertise would help reduce costs resulting in lower licensing fees.

The Committee reviewed the draft letter and indicated that the beginning is good since the first paragraphs focuses on facts. They did not agree with later portions of the letter, indicating that their fees are high only because they are a small group. For this reason, they feel they are not treated the same as other professional groups.

There was agreement that the letter is not ready to take to the Perinatal Advisory Committee. The chair indicated it must go to Ms. Selecky first. Jeanette Zaichkin, DOH offered additional suggestions such as listing advisory committee members on the left side of the front page. She also suggested they list the Midwifery Advisory Committee's purpose and be specific regarding their request of the Secretary.

Further discussion concerning the reasons for the proposed "Standards of Practice" rules. The committee members indicated that they hope to resolve some issues through the letter to Secretary Selecky. Ms. Van Roojen indicated that she will re-write the letter and sent it to the other members for review and feedback. The revised letter will be reviewed at the next meeting.

5. Report on Appointments to the Midwifery Advisory Committee

Ms. Pitzler reported on the progress of appointing new members to the committee. While Dr. Dimer has accepted a position with the committee, the other obstetric physician declined the position. The Committee and members of the public voiced their concern about having two obstetric physicians on the committee and indicated their preference is that there is both an obstetric physician as well as a physician who is not an obstetrician. The Department of Health wishes to recruit another physician but there are no applicants at this time. Ms. Pitzler indicated that recruitment notices have included putting articles in newsletters, letters to hospitals, letters to some OB or other physicians.

Applications have been sent forward for licensed midwife and certified nurse midwife positions.

A question was raised about changing the location of meetings to the Seattle area in order to attract more candidates. Members of the public asked about meeting by conference call or other system to reduce or eliminate the need to drive to meetings in Olympia. It was noted that it is difficult to take extra time off for travel and meetings when in practice. This may help get representation that is more diverse on the committee, including members from Eastern Washington.

Chair Van Roojen summarized discussion: To increase diversity of membership on the Midwifery Advisory Committee, the committee recommends:

1. Look into technology for alternative meeting options, such as allowing members to participate by conference call.
2. Continue to seek committee diversity.
3. Recruit an MD who is not an obstetrician for the committee.

The committee also formulated criteria it would like to see the Department consider when making a decision on whom to appoint to the Midwifery Advisory Committee. It was moved and seconded that the MAC criteria recommendations be forwarded to Ms. Selecky to assist her when making appointments. The motion not taken to vote.

The committee asked about getting names of midwives who have applied for a committee appointment. In response, Ms. Pitzler stated that the applications are not open to public disclosure. Ms. Pitzler referred to RCW 42.17.310, sub-section (1) (t) which reads as follows:

- (1) The following are exempt from public inspection and copying:
..... (t) All applications for public employment, including the names of applicants, resumes, and other related materials submitted with respect to an applicant.

Committee members requested that if they could not obtain the names of applicants, that they be allowed to obtain a profile of members and make recommendations to the Secretary. Alice Blado, AAG indicated that she would look into this and get back to the Committee.

6. Midwifery Budget

Ms. Meyer addressed the budget report and charts provided in the packet. In the old system, many midwifery costs were covered by other programs. There are more definitive costs now. All investigators have a new system to better monitor their time. Ms. van Roojen indicated interest in comparing the investigative cost to that of physician obstetrical cases.

Ms. Pitzler reported on the number of midwives, indicating that there are currently 98 licensed midwives and 8 candidates will be testing next week.

7. Open Forum for Public Input

Chair Van Roojen noted that none of the public had indicated they wanted to speak during the public forum. There were no responses from the floor. The chair moved to address Items 2, 3, and 4. Item 2 seemed to be the priority item at this time.

8. Review of Items from the October 7, 2003 Department of Health/Midwifery Stakeholder Meeting.

It was proposed that the committee members review responses to the issue raised at the October 10, 2003 stakeholder meeting. It was determined that members would review them individually rather than at this meeting.

9. Rules Update

The Committee reviewed the language for "Legend Drugs and Devices" and discussed the time-frame it will take to get to hearing. The committee also discussed opening rules for MEAC accredited schools and how this fits in with credit towards education. In addition, it was noted that the Department has asked for an I-601 exemption and, if granted, the Department will open rules to increase fees.

10. Plan Agenda for May 4, 2004 Meeting.

The committee set the agenda for the May 4, 2004 meeting as follows:

- Letter to Mary Selecky, DOH Secretary
- Report back from AAG and staff attorney
- Introduction of new committee members
- Orientation of new committee members as follows:
 - * Review of the Midwifery Laws and Rules.
 - * Disciplinary Process in Washington State
 - * Legislative Process
 - * Investigative Process
 - * Legal Process for Complaints and Investigations
 - * The Rules Process to include the CR 101, 102, 103

- * Open Public Meetings Act
- * How to Review a Case
- * Introduction to Budget Process
- * Minutes from Previous Midwifery Advisory Committee Meetings

The information will be placed in a notebook and four hours will be allowed for this training.

- Open Forum for Public Input
- Budget
- Committee work to include the letter to Secretary Selecky.

Chair Van Roojen suggested holding the orientation separately from this meeting.

Ms Meyer will see if the orientation can be done by video, including an introduction by Midwives on the committee.

The Committee requested that minutes be mailed out well in advance of the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Minutes prepared by Joyce Olsen, Administrative Assistant and Kendra Pitzler, Program Manager.